

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 15-27 are pending. Claim 1 is hereby amended.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 15, 16, 23, 24 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Burchard et al.** in view of **Bovaird et al.** and newly applied JP 8-9254, claims 4 and 7 were rejected over **Burchard et al.** as modified in further view of **Corder** and **Magnenat et al.**; claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over **Burchard et al.** as modified in further view of **Nguyen et al.**; claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Burchard et al.** as modified in further view of **Magnenat et al.**; and claims 25 and 27 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Burchard et al.** as modified in further view of **Barnard**. In the prior Office Action, **Gonzalez** was applied for its disclosure of a germicidal ceramic. Favorable reconsideration of these rejections is earnestly solicited.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of a germicidal ceramic and/or sintered magnetic body installed in the flow path from said flow switching valve to said delivery flow valve.

Although the Examiner asserts that the limitation of a germicidal ceramic and/or sintered magnetic body would have been obvious, the cited references provide no suggestion thereof in the particular location as currently claimed. In **Gonzalez**, which was applied in the prior Office Action, there is no disclosure of a germicidal ceramic and/or sintered magnetic body installed in

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the flow path from said flow path switching valve to said delivery flow switching valve. Furthermore, in newly applied JP 08-9254, there also is no teaching or suggestion of this feature.

The combination of the cited references fails to provide any teaching or suggestion of a water quality purification cartridge which is accommodated in the holding part, two kinds of change valves of a flow switching valve and a delivery flow path switching valve which are included in the head part, between the flow path switching valve and the delivery flow switching valve, which enables a germicidal ceramic and/or sintered magnetic body to be incorporated. None of the cited references provides for the germicidal ceramics and/or sintered magnetic body in the flow path from the flow path switching valve to the delivery flow switching valve.

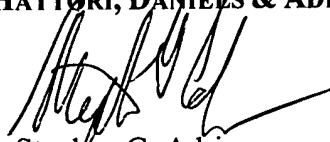
For at least the foregoing reasons, the presently claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen G. Adrian', is written over the firm name.

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